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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25. 1742.

N°. 2086.

IT has been often obſerved, and with great Appearance of Reaſon, that there is nothing more uſeful in a free Country than general and moderate Diſcourſes on Political Subjects. They ſerve to form the Minds of the People, to take away vulgar Prejudices, and to introduce that Spirit of thinking juſtly and freely on whatever Subjects are propoſed, that is neceſſary to give Weight to any Government by a Conjunction of the People's Wiſhes with their Endeavours. It is therefore conceived that Papers on ſuch kind of Subjects cannot fail of meeting with a good Reception in an Age ſo inquiſitive and ſharp-ſighted as the preſent, eſpecially if they are apparently untinged by Party Prejudices, and written with a true Patriot Spirit of preferring the Intereſt of the Nation to all other Intereſts whatſoever.

There has been lately many Enquiries ſet on foot as to the Expediency or Neceſſity of engaging in Wars for preſerving the general Liberty of *Europe*, and for preventing the exceſſive Growth of Power in any State, however acquir'd, or colour'd with whatever ſpecious Pretences. The Generality of thinking Men ſeem to be pretty clear in this Point, and to agree that it is fit to oppoſe ſo formidable and ſo unjuſt an Authority. But perhaps it may happen hereafter, as it has fallen out more than once already, that when vigorous Meaſures are taken, when the Sword is drawn, and the Lovers of Freedom thoroughly engaged in its Defence, there may ſtart up Reflections of another Nature, and it may be alledg'd that Univerſal Monarchy is a Charge often brought without ſufficient Proof; that the Balance of Power is a Term invented for the Uſe of Politicians, which ſignifies ſometimes one thing, ſometimes another; and that with reſpect to *Britain*, her Situation is her beſt Security, and the wiſeſt Step ſhe can take is, not to concern herſelf on any Pretence with the Affairs of the Continent.

Without doubt there is no Abſurdity in ſuppoſing that ſuch Objections may be hereafter made, and therefore it ſeems to be a reaſonable Thing to obviate them before they are made, by ſhewing plainly and clearly what univerſal Monarchy is; how it comes to be prejudicial to the Intereſts as well as Rights of Mankind; by what Means it may be avoided; why it concerns all States to guard ſtrongly againſt it; and how an Offenſive War becomes Defenſive, in the ſtricteſt Senſe, when undertaken upon this Principle. Nor will it be amiſs to ſhew how far and in what Senſe our being an Iſland ought to regulate our Politicks; why it is neceſſary for us to concern ourſelves ſometimes about the Affairs of our Neighbours; and why the holding the Balance of Power in *Europe* is believed to be properly the Province of *Great Britain*; what Advantages other Nations as well as ourſelves may reap therefrom; and what Miſchiefs may follow from treating this Notion as a Chimera. Theſe Diſquiſitions require ſome Room, and therefore we will content ourſelves with handling the ſeveral Points before-mention'd in their Order, as Time and Opportunity will permit; in hopes that we ſhall either afford the Reader due Satisfaction, or ſtir up ſome more able Writer to undertake ſo neceſſary a Task; in either Caſe our End will be anſwer'd—— the Publick will receive Benefit from our Endeavours.

In reſpect to univerſal Monarchy, the Inexpediency of it may be render'd evident from Reaſon and Experience. As human Abilities have certain Bounds, ſo the Extent of Civil Wiſdom hath its proper Regulations. A Man who governs a Family conſiſting of ten Perſons, with Eaſe to himſelf and Benefit to them, would not be able to do the ſame Thing if this Family of his ſhould be increaſed to a hundred. Hence it appears to be juſt and natural, that whatever Relations there may be between the Heads of Families, it ought not to affect their Independency, ſince upon this the Welfare of each Family depends; and if Particulars are diſturbed, the Whole muſt be in Confuſion. We can eaſily conceive how a Man of great Parts may govern a great City, how an able General may command a very numerous Army, and a wiſe Prince rule a flouriſhing and powerful People; but we cannot help ſeeing, that if the Charge of governing as a chief Magiſtrate ten Cities, or the ſupreme Direction of ſeveral great Armies in ſeveral Places, or the Superintendance of Provinces at vaſt Diſtances from each other, be committed to one Man, this muſt beget Neglect, Confuſion, and Diſtreſs. We cannot help obſerving, that Nature or rather Providence has appointed proper Boundaries, ſuch as great Rivers, wide Seas, and Ridges of ſteep Mountains, to ſeparate one Country from another, and to divide their Inhabitants; by which it ſeems to be implied, that every great Society ought to take Care of its own Concerns, and not be directed by the Chiefs of another.

This Maxim is alſo pointed out in ſeveral fabulous Hiſtories, which we know was the Method uſed by the Ancients to wrap up their Political Learning. It ſeems alſo to have been one great Cauſe why *Moſes* preſerv'd ſo diſtinct an Account of the Contrivance, Building, and Deſtruction of the *Tower of Babel*. The Iniquity of that Attempt conſiſted plainly in a Deſign to eſtabliſh a univerſal Monarchy over the whole Race of Mankind; an Honour only due, a Sovereignty alone to be aſcribed to, as it can be exerciſed by none but the Supreme Being. The Scattering the People upon that memorable Occaſion ſhews, that the Welfare of Men depends on and is beſt provided for by their being form'd into ſeparate Societies of reaſonable Bulk, and that whatever croſſes this Intention muſt be prejudicial to their Intereſt, and create Miſchief and Miſery.

We need only conſider the Situation of Mankind under the wide extended Empire of the *Perſian* Monarchs, and under the Influence of the *Greek* Policies, to be convinc'd that the former was a Curſe, and the latter a Bleſſing. The Subjects of the *Perſian* King were lazy, effeminate, prone to ſervile Obedience, and, in fine, Slaves; the Citizens of the *Greek* Republicks were brave, active, induſtrious, and, in a word, free. When theſe loſt their Independency, and fell under the Dominion of the *Macedonian* Princes and their Succeſſors, they loſt all theſe Advantages, they became quite another Race of People; and one can ſcarce form an Idea of a greater Difference between Men, than that which is to be found in the preſent *Greeks*, if we compare their Condition, Circumſtances, and Manner of Living at this Day, with thoſe of their Anceſtors, as many great Writers have done, with equal Spirit and Juſtice.

If we conſider the Riſe and Progreſs of the *Roman* Power, it will confirm theſe Reflections. While the Influence of that Commonwealth was confin'd within due Bounds, its Fame flouriſhed and its Subjects were happy; but after the Deſtruction of *Carthage*, and the Ruin of *Perſeus* King of *Macedon*, the *Roman* Liberty ſuffer'd by the Power of the State, and the Republick was undone by acquiring a Force to which its Conſtitution was unequal. This firſt made the Empire of a ſingle Perſon appear neceſſary, and this quickly ſunk into downright Tyranny, ſo that the Yoke of the *Romans* became as much hated as their Protection had been formerly ſought, and the Nature of their Government admired. This was the Reaſon that diſtant Provinces threw off their Obedience to *Rome*, and deſpiſing its Arts and Learning, relapſed into Barbarity, and gained even by that, as appears from the Superiority which was quickly attained by theſe revolted Nations.

If we deſcend to later Times, we ſhall find, that univerſal Empire ſpread univerſal Dejection and Miſery.—When *Germany*, *France* and *Italy* were under the Power of, or were pretended to by a ſingle Prince, things were always in Confuſion, ſome Province or other was perpetually in Rebellion, and Diſorders in any Part affected the Whole. The Peace of *Europe*, like the Peace of *Italy*, is beſt preſerved by the Independancy and Equality of its ſeveral Powers; for when one comes to ſwallow up another, this naturally affrights the reſt, and becomes the Cauſe of Confuſion and War, till things are once more ſettled by ſome new Partition, which has now been the prevailing Policy for many Ages.

Neither is the Caſe at all altered, if an exorbitant Increaſe of Power is acquired by any other Method than Conqueſt. *Charles* V. was no leſs formidable, tho' he inherited the *Netherlands*, acquired *Spain* by Succeſſion, and was elected Emperor of *Germany*, than if he had obtain'd theſe Dominions by his Sword. The very Poſſeſſion of ſo extended an Authority put him upon Projects prejudicial to his Neighbours, and the whole Buſineſs of his Life was a continual Struggle to gratify his own Ambition, or to ſecure himſelf againſt the Effects of other People's Fears. At laſt he ſaw the Impoſſibility of obtaining what he had ſo long and earneſtly ſought, and therefore he wiſely provided for the future Safety of the *Auſtrian* Line, by leaving the *Empire* to his Brother, and the Crown of *Spain* and its Dependencies to his Son. Yet the laſt ſoon appeared to be a Concern too big to be well managed; and if we have a mind to be thoroughly acquainted with the Difference between univerſal Monarchy and a particular Principality with reſpect to the Good of Mankind, and the Benefit reſulting to Subjects, we need only conſider and compare the Condition of the *Seven Provinces* under the Government of the Duke of *Alva* and under the Protection of the Princes of the Houſe of *Orange*. We ſhall then be ſatisfied, that no Hazard is too great to run if we may eſcape the former, no Expence too high if by it the latter may be purchaſed. This I hope is ſufficient as to the firſt Point, *viz.* 'That Univerſal Monarchy is deſtructive of 'the Intereſts and Rights of Mankind as they are rational 'and ſocial Creatures, and ought therefore to be avoided 'and reſiſted as a Capital Evil.

HOME PORTS.

Falmouth, *Feb.* 20. Sailed the Tiger, Merryweather, for Virginia; the Elizabeth, Scot, for Oporto; the Thomas and William, Cole, for Figueira; the Friends Endeavour, Edwards, for Oporto; the Fowler, Rogers, and the Trimmer, Rediarl, for Lisbon; and the Thomas and Mary, Evers, for Briſtol. Came in the Leopard Tender from Plymouth, and the S. Antonio, ——, from London for Liſbon. Remain the Antilope, Morris, for Figueira; the Eagle Packet, for Lisbon; and the Cleve, Rice, for London. Juſt now ſail'd the Expedition Packet, for Lisbon.

Plymouth, *Feb.* 21. Juſt now came in his Majeſty's Ships the Weymouth, Deptford, and Dunkirk, all from Jamaica, laſt from Portſmouth.

Poole, *Feb.* 22. Came in the William and Thomas, Lander, and the Trinity Packet, Coldwell, both from London.

Southampton, *Feb.* 23. Wind N. Since my laſt arriv'd the Expedition Packet, Mourant, and the John and Mary, Pitton, from Guernſey; and the Fly, Farwell, from Jerſey.

Portſmouth, *Feb.* 23. Yeſterday came to Spithead from the Downs his Majeſty's Ships the Scipio and Hound.

At Spithead are his Majeſty's Ships the Duke, Cambridge, Advice, Scipio and Hound.

Dover, *Feb.* 23. Wind N. Came in the Dunkirk, Smith, and the Weſt, Gilbie, from London for Dunkirk; and the Mermaid, Littledale, from Whitehaven for Rotterdam. Sailed the Adventure, Skeiſe, for Oporto; the John and Mary, Wills, for Lisbon; the Charming Jenny, Ditcham, for Dublin; and the William and Elizabeth, Robertſon, for Southampton.

Yeſterday paſs'd by Dover Road, the Britannia, Sumner, for Eaſt India, and the Union, Payne, for Cork.

Deal, *Feb.* 23. Wind N. by W. Came down Yeſterday Afternoon and ſail'd thro', the Greyhound Man of War, for Spithead; the Britannia, Sumner, for Eaſt India; the Janet, Crookenden, for Barbados; the Voluntier, Baſnet, for Montſerrat; the South River Merchant, Hall, for Virginia; the Alexander, Finch, and the Edward, Booth, for Maryland; the Lydia and Dorothy, Gowan, for Carolina; the Mafra, Smith, for Lisbon; and the Seanymph, Gordon, for Lymington. Remains his Majeſty's Ship the Leopard.

Graveſend, *Feb.* 23. Paſs'd by the Hope, Donker, and the Mary, Worms, from Hamburgh; and the Prince of Wales, Le Viſcount, from Maryland.

Arrived

At Cork, the Benjamin, Roth, from Lisbon.

At Falmouth, the William, Corniſh, from Oporto.

LONDON, February 25.

Yeſterday Morning about Three o' Clock a Fire broke out at a Stationer's near Porters Block Weſt Smithfield, by the Neglect of the Servant Maid, who had been brewing, and who periſhed in the Flames. A Man and a Boy are miſſing, who are ſuppos'd to have met with the ſame Fate. A Barber's Houſe adjoining, and the Stationer's, were entirely conſumed, and two other Houſes very much damaged.

Yeſterday the Right Hon. the Counteſs of Rothes was ſafely deliver'd of a Daughter at his Lordſhip's Houſe in Brooke-ſtreet.

A Patent paſs'd the Great Seal on Friday laſt for appointing John Frowle, Eſq; one of the Commiſſioners of the Exciſe, to be Auditor of the ſaid Office after the Demiſe of Sir Baſil D xwell, Bart.

Laſt Week Iſaac Howard, Mary Clements, Ann Grendſworth, and Sarah Johnſon, were committed to Bridewel by Col. De Veil; and Elizabeth Foſter, by Juſtice Jones; for hawking unſtampt News-papers.

Yeſterday the Seſſions began at the Old Bailey, when Twenty-five Priſoners were try'd, of whom One was capitally convicted, viz

Alexander Affiack, for burglariouſly ſtealing ſeveral Goods of great Value of Andrew Stock.

Nineteen were caſt for Tranſportation, and Five acquitted.

High Water this Day at London-Bridge.	Morning	03	10	Evening 03 28

Bank Stock, 135 5-8ths to 1-half. India, 157. South Sea, 103 1-8th. Old Annuity, 111 7-8ths. New ditto, 110 1-8th. Three per Cent. 100. Seven per Cent. Loan, Nothing done. Five per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Royal Assurance, 86. London Assurance, 11. African, 10. India Bonds, 3 l. 16 to 15 s. Prem. Bank Circulation, 3 l. 2 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Tallies, 99 7-8ths. English Copper, 3 l. 15 s. ditto, 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders, Nothing done. Three per Cent. ditto, Nothing done. Million Bank, 113 1-half. Equivalent, 110.

Admiralty-Office, February 20, 1741.

THE *Leave being expired that was given to the Petty Officers and Foremaſt Men of his Majeſty's Ship Chatham, and the ſaid Ship being under Orders to be got ready for the Sea as ſoon as poſſible, It is the Direction of the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, That the ſaid Petty Officers and Seamen do immediately repair on board the ſaid Ship at Woolwich, on Pain not only of loſing their Wages, but of being apprehended and tried as Deſerters.*

Tho. Corbett.

Bank, January 15, 1741.

WHereas *Information has been given at the Bank, That* JOHN WAITE, *their late Caſhier, was ſeen lately at a certain Inn ſome Diſtance from London; and it being ſuppoſed that he is about to make his Eſcape out of the Land, This therefore is to give Notice to all* Captains, Maſters of Ships or Small Veſſels, Fiſhermen, Innkeepers, &c. *That whoever ſhall apprehend and ſecure the ſaid* JOHN WAITE, *to be dealt with according to Law, ſhall receive of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England* Three hundred Pounds, *over and above the* Two hundred Pounds *offered in former Advertiſements, in the Whole* FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS.

David Le Gros, *Secretary.*

N. B. *The ſaid* JOHN WAITE *is about Forty-one Years of Age, and about Five Foot Eight Inches high, well ſet, round viſag'd, ſmall grey Eyes, very light Eye-brows and Eye-laſhes, and of a moſt remarkable freſh Complection, but travels ſomewhat diſguiſed.*

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Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, at G. Strahan's in Cornhill, C. Davis's in Pater noſter Row, T. Woodward's in Fleet-ſtreet, R. Dodſley's in Pall-mall, H. Chappelle's in Groſvenor-ſtreet; alſo of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher in Oxon; and Mr. Thurlbourn at Cambridge, Bookſellers.

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